

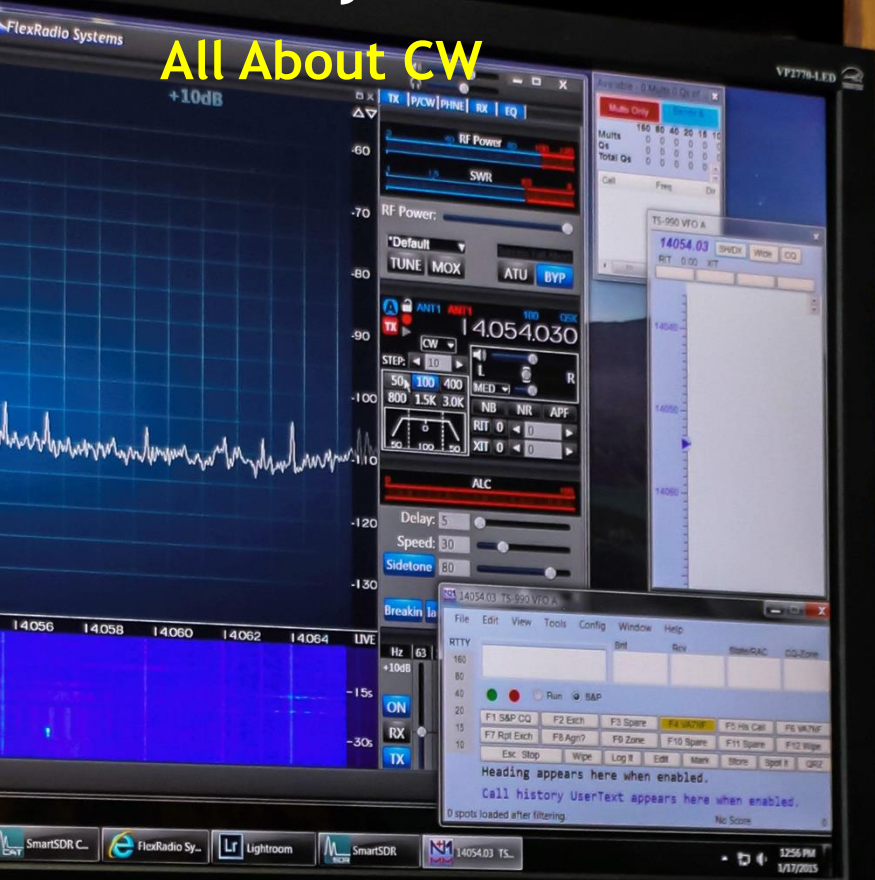


The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator

February 2015

All About CW



February 2015



At The Last Meeting...

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At The January General Meeting...

Introductions & Announcements

The meeting was opened at 1900 hr on January 14th by President John Brodie VA7XB. Visitors Chris Dautre KG6SKO (Manager of Blaine Auxiliary Communications Service), Chris Scholefield VE7QCS and Jan Volenicek VA7VJ were welcomed along with guest speaker, Ron Casey VE7VTA. John VA7XB announced that a draw would be held for 3 gift certificates donated by Burnaby Radio and Fleetwood Digital Products at the end of the meeting. All were invited to attend the February 11th meeting which will feature a presentation by James Longley on the facilities at BC Emergency Management's Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre.

Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL and Chris Dautre KG6SKO announced that the Blaine Auxiliary Communications Service will be having an Open House on Saturday January 24th at the Blaine Public Library. The purpose is to publicize the work of ACS emergency service volunteers, to learn how amateur radio fits into the program, to learn about the value of emergency response and to recruit new members for ACS.

Committee Reports

Financial

Treasurer Scott Hawrelak VE7HA reported a healthy balance in SARC's chequing and savings accounts, and noted that the net cost to the club for the Christmas party was \$179. Scott stated that since the last meeting, RAC insurance premium in the amount of \$773 has been paid, which exceeds last year's premium by 20% as a result of a changed procedure for counting the membership roster. Scott also made a last call for name badge requests as he plans to place an order within the next few weeks.

Field Day

John VA7XB displayed a chart of the primary Field Day tasks and requested

volunteers for those positions that have not yet been filled. At this stage the objective is to identify members who are willing to take a significant role in the planning and execution. Stan Williams VA7NF reported that SEPAR will be involved again as partners with SARC, with details to be discussed at a joint planning meeting which will be scheduled shortly. Stan graciously volunteered to take on the FD coordinator's role. Al Peterson VA7ALZ offered to take responsibility for Youth, Education, the Information Table and Setup.

Membership and Communicator

Reports were not available in the absence of the coordinator, John Schouten VE7TI. In response to a question, it was stated that the membership roster currently stands slightly over 70 with several renewals received by Treasurer Scott VE7HA this evening.

Net & Repeater

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV reported that there were no issues but that he could always use more volunteers for once-a-month net control duties.

Website

Howard Ticzon VA7HTZ reported no issues with the website.

CW Group

Garvin Yee VA7YEE announced that a CW group is being organized under his direction and those interested should get in touch with him. A notice with details will appear in Feb 1st Communicator

Satellite Group

John VA7XB stated that he hopes to have the first meeting later this month.

Contest Group

Brett Garrett VE7GM reviewed contests for January and February and invited members to participate. Upcoming contests supported by SARC are as follows:

- Jan 17th NA QSO Party (SSB)
- John XB hosting
- Jan 24th is BARTG RTTY contest
- Jim FO hosting
- Feb 7-8 BCQP SSB and CW contest
- John XB and Jim VE7FO hosting

New Business

There being no new business, the meeting broke for coffee then reassembled for the featured presentation.

Presentation: Security Issues For 2015

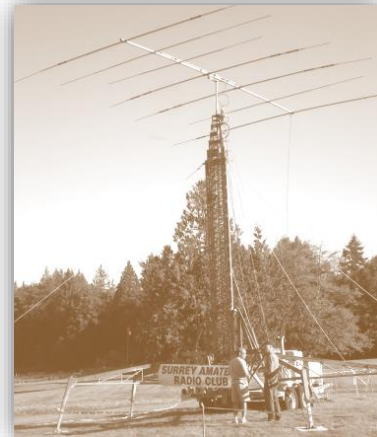
Ron Casey VE7VTA began by emphasizing that he was presenting only his personal views. A major concern expressed by Ron is the “normalcy bias”, i.e. the pervasive notion that “it can’t happen here”. He then proceeded to review what he saw as the biggest security threats to Canadians and others throughout the world focusing on natural events and political,

demographic and ideological conflicts with Western values. He concluded by providing some advice for sources of unbiased information and ways to prepare for events that may occur.



A “voluntary donation incentive” draw was held, won by Jim Hurrell VE7HUR. Two Burnaby Radio gift certificates were won by Elizabeth Gilchrist VA7ELA and Kapila Jayaweera VE7K GK, and a Fleetwood Digital gift certificate was won by Ralph Wrotniak VA7UB.

Ron Casey was thanked for his thought-provoking presentation and the meeting was adjourned at 2130 hr.



The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

On The Cover...

Stan Williams VA7NF is a CW enthusiast, profiled in this month’s Radio-Active (on [page 20](#)), and shown here in his shack at his Flex SDR.

CW (Continuous Wave) or ‘Morse code’ is an electromagnetic wave of constant amplitude and frequency; the carrier wave is switched on and off. Information is carried in the varying duration of the on and off periods of the signal. In early wireless telegraphy radio transmission, CW waves were also known as “undamped waves”, to distinguish this method from damped wave transmission.

Very early radio transmitters used a spark gap to produce radio-frequency oscillations in the transmitting antenna. The signals produced by these spark-gap transmitters consisted of brief pulses of radio frequency oscillations which died out rapidly to zero, called damped waves. The disadvantage of damped waves was that they produced electromagnetic interference that spread over the transmissions of stations at other frequencies.

This motivated efforts to produce radio frequency oscillations that decayed more slowly. Strictly speaking, an unmodulated continuous carrier has no bandwidth and cannot interfere with signals at other frequencies, but conveys no information either. Thus it is commonly understood that the act of keying the carrier on and off is necessary. However, in order to bring the bandwidth of the resulting signal under control, the buildup and decay of the radio frequency envelope needs to be slower than that of the early spark gap implementations.

When this is done, the spectrum of the signal approaches that of a continuous sinusoidal oscillation, while temporally its amplitude varies between zero and full carrier strength. As such, the resulting narrower bandwidth mode of operation is to this day described as “continuous wave”. The resulting signal allows many radio stations to share a given band of frequencies without noticeable mutual interference.



February 2015



Learning To Send CW

Brett Garrett VE7GM

"This article will not prepare you to participate in CW traffic nets. Nor will it prepare you to work CW contests without using a computer or CW memory keyer to do the sending. But these are things you can grow into, if you choose, after developing the basic sending skills that are addressed in this article."

A few months back I wrote an article on learning to copy CW (Morse Code). At that time I committed to following up with another article on learning to send CW.

Like the first article, this one is based on my recent personal experience. The methods and tips that have been working for me may not work for everyone, but they will give a committed learner a place to start, with the knowledge that these methods have worked for at least one other person.

The methods described in this article are ones I used to become comfortable in daily CW QSOs with old friends and a few new friends. These "rag chews" normally last from 30-45 minutes and are at a speed of around 18-20 words per minute (wpm).

This article will not prepare you to participate in CW traffic nets. Nor will it prepare you to work CW contests without using a computer or CW memory keyer to do the sending. But these are things you can grow into, if you choose, after developing the basic sending skills that are addressed in this article.

What You Need to Know Before You Start

Just as you can't sing "Auld Lang Syne" if you don't know the tune, it is essential to know the sound of good CW in order to send clear, readable code.

Practice at copying good code is thus critical preparation for learning to send. If you have not yet learned to recognize well-formed, well-spaced words in CW, put this article aside until you have had more practice listening.

The minimum useful character speed (not necessarily the same as the average text speed) is 10 words per minute (wpm). (This is my opinion—I have

read an expert opinion that learners should start at 25 wpm.) Below this the brain hears too much dead space between the dits and dahs and can't get a sense of the sound pattern. (Although 5 wpm has been used in the US as a minimum code speed, all authorities I have come across have condemned this speed as being so low as to inhibit progression to higher, practical speeds.)

The average code speed can be effectively reduced (for beginners) by adding extra space between successive words (and, for very beginners, between characters, although this slows recognition of standard words and character groups).

Since CW conveys information using only two lengths of sounds, and all the information is in the sequence of these two lengths of sounds and the spacings between the sounds, timing is everything. The only difference between "5" and "SEE" is the spacing between the dits of the "S" and two "E"s.

There are standards for spacing between dits and dahs in a character, between letters in a word, and between words in a phrase. You can find the details at URL: <http://www.kent-engineers.com/codespeed.htm>, but basically the spacing between the dits and dahs in a character is the length of a dit, the spacing between two characters is the length of a dah, and the spacing between two words is the length of the character "H".

Getting Ready: Decisions, Decisions

Before you can begin you have several decisions to make.

First, you will have to make a choice of sending apparatus, commonly called a "key". Actually you have several choices, including the classic straight key



'Dual' Paddles

("pump"), the bug, dual paddles and keyer, and the single paddle and keyer.

I've seen a variety of odd-ball sending devices, including the up/down microphone buttons on my IC-7000, the buttons on a recycled two-button mouse, a piece of bent metal and a thumbtack, etc. I strongly recommend purchasing a good quality commercial produced paddle to start, however. You can find some advice at URL: <http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/Morse/Learning%20Morse%20Effectively-Prior-N7RR.pdf>, but be warned that the highly praised Begali paddles are very expensive. I don't recommend you start there (unless you want to sell it to me very cheaply if you decide to give up on CW, in which case I hope you buy the Begali Adventure with the mounting bracket for the Elecraft KX3 ☺). I started with a basic black body Bencher BY-1, and still use that for my base station.

If you choose a straight key, you will be unnecessarily limiting your speed, and a future transition to a paddle will be difficult since the hand and finger action is very different.

A bug, on the other hand, is an invitation to malformed characters (and I've heard some doozies on the air). With a bug, the dahs are sent at manual speed, and the dits are sent at automatic speed. There is not necessarily any correlation between the two speeds, or even between the lengths of successive dahs.

I recommend using a paddle and keyer. The keyer helps ensure characters are correctly formed. A keyer used with paddles solves the "bad timing" problem—often heard from bug-users—by generating sequences of correctly timed and spaced dits and dahs. With a keyer, holding the dah paddle too long will generate more dahs, not a long dah (which, in CW-speak, represents the "cut" number for zero), as happens with a bug.

A decision you'll have to make with the paddles and keyer option is whether you want a single or dual-lever unit.

With dual paddles you can use lambic keying. Lambic keying generates alternating dit-dah patterns when the

two paddles are pressed at the same time. It requires good thumb-finger coordination and fine muscle control. I am convinced it is more mentally demanding than non-lambic, since the brain needs to consider the particular pattern of muscle movements required for each character, and getting set up for these movements between characters can be challenging (it is for me when I push my speed up). However, there is a small efficiency advantage in using lambic keying.

I use lambic keying, although I have read that high-speed CW operators commonly prefer single paddle keying, which is necessarily non-lambic. You can find much more on lambic keying in an opinion piece, from a negative but useful perspective, at URL: <http://www.cwops.org/pdf/iambicmyth.pdf>. The explanations are very good, and some of the negative points are good ones. (One particularly pointed argument is the following: "In practice, anybody who can send at 5 wpm with a paddle can "squeeze key" effectively. At 20wpm it takes a lot of practice and some people just can't do it. Above 40wpm the more complicated squeezes are forgotten about even by operators who "squeeze" everything at slower speeds.")

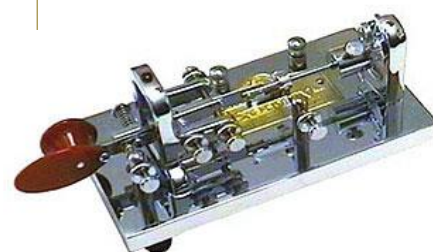
In the rest of this article, I will assume you are doing lambic keying with dual paddles and a keyer. (If you choose not to use lambic keying, however, I will forgive you: just skip over those bits.)

Once you've selected and acquired your new paddles (and I'm going to assume you have selected paddles from here on), you will need to adjust the spacings and tension. You should start with the manufacturer's recommendations, but you can also find very good information at URL:

<http://www.morsex.com/misc/keyadj.htm>. However you set things up initially, you will likely be fine tuning those adjustments for some time until you become comfortable with them, so be sure to learn the correct procedure for your unit.

Next you will need something to generate the sounds you need for code practice. You can find suggestions in the article by N7RR referenced earlier, or a

"I recommend using a paddle and keyer. The keyer helps ensure characters are correctly formed. A keyer used with paddles solves the "bad timing" problem"



A "bug" see text

February 2015

One tip: when sending from books (or other written material), don't bother with the commas, periods, dashes, and oddities like exclamation marks and quotation marks. You hardly ever need these in real life.

“build-it-yourself” design at URL: <http://www.arrl.org/learning-morse-code> (bottom link). I purchased a PicoKeyer Plus at first. You can also get (as I did later) the widely supported K1EL Winkeyer WKUSB-SMT, which, afterwards, can be very useful for getting your rig to send CW from your computer (very useful for CW contesting). Both are easy to build kits for those who like to solder.

If you have a modern HF rig, this will likely be your least (additional) cost option. Modern HF rigs generally can act as a good code practice oscillator if the QSK (sometimes called VOX) setting is turned off, so the transmitter does not generate a carrier automatically when the key or paddle is pressed. (When setting this up, test it by connecting the transmitter to a dummy load, and turning the power down to the lowest setting available.) Keep in mind, however, that you may not have as much flexibility in lambic keying options as with the specialty keyers.

A modern specialty keyer can be set in one of at least three common modes: lambic A, lambic B, and Ultimatic. With both lambic A and lambic B keying, pressing both paddles simultaneously causes the keyer to output a sequence of alternating dits and dahs. The technical differences are described in an authoritative article (by John Curtis, President of Curtis Electro Devices) that can be found at URL: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~malcolm/radio/8044.ps>.

lambic A is easier to learn, since, when the paddles are released, the keyer completes the current dit or dah element and then stops. With lambic B, if the paddles are released during generation of an element, the keyer will follow whichever element it is currently sending with the alternate (dit or dah) element, so the timing of the paddle action is more critical and must be much more precise (which can be tough for beginners).

Ultimatic keying is less commonly supported (except by specialty keying chips, such as that from K1EL). With Ultimatic keying the last paddle pressed

determines whether the dit or dah is repeated. If the dah paddle is pressed last, for example, the current dit will be completed and then the keyer will generate a recurring series of dahs.

My ICOM IC-7000 supports only lambic B, so that was how I started and continue today. However, if you have a choice, and choose to use lambic keying, lambic A may be easier to learn.

A final decision you will have to make is which hand to use to send. Although I am right handed, I send with my left, which leaves my right hand free to make notes. This is useful when doing fairly fast contacts that are being logged on paper, such as for Summits on the Air (SOTA) activations. It is generally easier, however, to use the dominant hand to send with, since muscle coordination will be better developed and muscle control will be more precise. Whichever choice you make you will likely have to live with, although I know at least one CW op who can send well with either hand.

If you decide to send with your left hand, I suggest you learn, as I did, with the paddle configured for a right-hander, where the left paddle sends dits. The advantage is that you can be a guest op in a right-hander's shack without having to reconfigure their rig's paddle settings (a step which is likely to be forgotten and so will confuse one or both of you).

Sending Practice

We're finally here: you now get to send CW! You have done your preparations, and obtained, assembled and tested the necessary equipment.

In the beginning you should concentrate on sending one letter at a time, with lots of spacing between letters. Start sending a few standard things, such as your callsign, and those old typing standbys: “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog”, and “Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party”. “My Fair Lady” fans might even try “The rain in Spain falls mainly in the plain.” But these quickly become boring, so you'll need other material.



A “Straight” Key

I've found simple books (hint: this is not the time to pick up that book you were reading on Maxwell's equations, Laplace transforms, or string theory) and newspaper articles can be useful.

There are four basic steps in sending:

1. What to say (the idea to be conveyed);
2. How to say it (the choice of words and syntax);
3. How to spell the words; and
4. How to send the letters in the words.

Note that the first two steps are common to speech, and so will be familiar. The third step is common to writing and typing, but can be a stumbling block for CW (more on this to come). The fourth step is the one you want to practice first, and using a book as source material will allow you to focus on this step. This step is where you will develop the brain-finger muscle coordination that you'll need to "talk" in CW, just as, when very young, you learned to coordinate your brain with your tongue, lips, and larynx to speak.

One tip: when sending from books (or other written material), don't bother with the commas, periods, dashes, and oddities like exclamation marks and quotation marks. You hardly ever need these in real life.

In real QSOs you can manage very well by abandoning all but a few punctuation marks and pro-signs. Especially useful are the forward stroke used for portable operation ("/"), the question mark ("?"), the pause (<BT>), "73", the "go ahead" K, the "go ahead only the one station I'm calling" KN, and the "that's it from me for this QSO" <SK>.

Finally, you will make mistakes. (If you think you aren't making mistakes then you aren't listening closely enough to what you are sending.)

The formal way of correcting an error is to stop, send a string of eight dits, and then re-start the word in question. In practice the number of dits doesn't need to be exactly eight, as long as it is clearly more than five (code for the numeral five) and isn't absurdly large. This is the method I generally use.

Three other methods you might encounter are:

1. A short series of spaced dits (e.g. dit, space, dit) followed by the corrected word.
2. A question mark, followed by the corrected word. (Also used to repeat a word where there may have been confusion, such as with an abbreviation such as "SARC".)
3. For errors which are obvious (e.g. clear mis-spellings such as "tomorrow"), just ignore the error and keep moving, which respects the fact that the operator at the other end can figure out what was intended.

So, with your paddles, keyer, code-practice oscillator set up, and your book in front of you (with adequate lighting), start at Page 1 and work your way through 2-3 pages per session. Keep it up—you are training your brain to make your fingers do the talking.

One final tip: Unless you live alone, you may want to use headphones. (Otherwise in a couple of weeks you may find that you are living alone.)

73
~ Brett VE7GM

Next month, Part 2 of Brett's article

Characters written between angle brackets, as in <BT>, is a method commonly used to indicate the characters are run together. So, for example, <BT> is "dah-di-di-di-dah", which is a running together of "B" and "T".)
Another common typographical convention is to put a bar over the top of the two characters



The next contest opportunity is BC's own BC QSO Party on Saturday February 7 (see pages 10 & 11). This contest starts at 08:00 PST and runs for 12 hours. John VA7XB and Jim VE7FO will both be generously opening their stations to Contest Group members for this one. John's station will be open starting at 08:00 with time slots 08:00-12:00, 12:00-16:00, and 16:00-20:00. Mode will be SSB. Jim's station will be open starting at 10:00 with time slots 10:00-14:00, 14:00-18:00, and 18:00-20:00. Modes can be either SSB, RTTY or CW.

Members who are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should send a request to either John or Jim, depending on which station you'd like to work at, stating your preferred time slot.

February 2015

This program has been reviewed by and has the full support of the SARC Executive.

Contact Garvin via
moonraker744@gmail.com

SARC CW Group Training Proposal

Garvin Yee VA7YEE has volunteered to be the coordinator of a group geared to encouraging members to learn CW. The following guidelines are proposed:

1. **Purpose/Objective**
The objective will be to coordinate the activities of all SARC members interested in learning Morse Code such that the trainees achieve 10 wpm by June 1st and 15 wpm by the Dec 2015 CW Rookie Roundup.
2. **Preparation**
The current skill level will be determined and documented for each trainee to serve as a bench- mark for assessment of progress.
3. **Equipment**
The equipment available to each trainee for learning Morse Code including computer, CW keys/paddles, practice oscillators and radios will be determined. Resources including training aids, hardware and software will be shared to the extent possible.
4. **Coordinator**
Garvin Yee VA7YEE will be the CW Group Coordinator.
5. **Activities**
Small groups and/or individuals will train and practice over the air using VHF or UHF at predetermined frequencies and times or, alternatively, using other suitable methods to be determined.
6. **Assignments/homework**
The Coordinator will ensure that trainees keep up with daily/weekly practice, either individually or in pairs, rotating on a regular basis. New goals will be set as appropriate.
7. **Evaluation of Objectives**
The Coordinator will ensure letters, numbers and other characters are learned by periodic testing of trainees and recording of progress. He will maintain contact on a daily or weekly basis to encourage and help trainees achieve the objective.



The SARC Contest Group scored well once again, this time in the ARRL RTTY RoundUp

QSO Today - Eric Manning VA7DZ

Join Eric, 4Z1UG, in his QSO Today with Eric Manning, VA7DZ. Eric and Eric discuss the Reverse Beacon Network and the use of the CW Skimmer software as tools for contesting and understanding of real time low band openings.

VA7DZ has a lifetime of amateur radio beginning in 1948, in his 5th grade classroom. His ham radio journey led him to a career in computers and computer science, culminating as a professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering, and to his current ham radio operation at the University of Victoria. Even in retirement, Eric's ham radio life is rich with experiences and new projects.

Short Show Link: <http://goo.gl/4wbyK5>

Show Notes: <http://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/va7dz>

iTunes Store: <http://goo.gl/CvLNmV>

Stitcher: <http://goo.gl/uhf1XZ>



I'm Not Ignoring You, I'm Listening 10 Up

In passing a few weeks ago I mentioned listening 10-up. It's also a slogan I have on a t-shirt, it says: *'I'm not ignoring you, I'm listening 10 up.'*

So what does that mean and what do you do when a station tells you that they are listening 'up', or 'down'?

If you're a DX station and you've got a desirable call, it's likely that you'll generate a pile-up, that is, lots of different stations all calling at the same time, trying to get the attention of the single DX station.

As more and more stations join in the fray, the remote station will get drowned out by eager hunters who try to call early, or try to call late in an attempt to get the attention of the DX station.

The impact of this is cumulative. Over time, the DX station will get buried entirely in spurious transmissions, so making a contact becomes harder and harder, sometimes impossible.

I've talked about the rhythm of a contact. If it's all working as expected, the rhythm will help you synchronize your call with that of the remote DX, similarly, all the other stations on frequency will march to the same drum beat.

Sometimes this just becomes too hard and a DX station might solve the problem by "operating split".

In essence, the station operates two frequencies, their calling frequency, which is where you can hear the station, and their listening frequency, which is where everyone else is calling and the DX station is listening.

This makes it possible for the drum beat to continue and for the DX station to not be drowned out.

So, how do you do this?

On many modern radios you'll have access to two VFOs, you tune one, VFO A, to the DX calling frequency, the other, VFO B, to the DX listening frequency.

You'll push the "split operation" button and when you listen, you're listening to VFO A frequency and when you're transmitting you're doing that on the VFO B frequency.

A station will announce this by saying something like "listening 10 up", or "2 up", whatever they pick.

During contests this is generally frowned on, since it ties up two frequencies, but during normal day-to-day operations it's another tool to make HF contacts possible.

I'm not Ignoring you, I'm listening 10-up.

~ Onno VK6FLAB

"...the station operates two frequencies, their calling frequency... which is where you can hear the station, and their listening frequency..."



February 2015



The BC QSO Party

"...the ultimate goal of BCQP is to get BC stations on the air."

First off, I have to thank SARC and SEPAR for supporting the BCQP plaque program. Secretly, I had hoped that having plaques would act as an incentive for operations near and far to participate more actively. After two years, I think it's safe to say that the plaque program has indeed spurred interest and activity. So thank you for helping me achieve this. ☺

We now have 8 plaques available: Top BC Score, Top YL Score, Top Score Canada Outside BC, Top US Score, Most Electoral Districts Contacted, Top Rookie, Top DX, and Top Mixed Mode. The new one this year is Mixed Mode, sponsored by North Shore ARC.

I mentioned at the Orca meeting earlier this week that the promotion wagon would be rolling out, so here is the official BCQP invitation. I know you often put a note on the SARC website with links to the BCQP pages, and everything there has been updated accordingly. The top page is here: <http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html> and rules, tools, helpful hints, in-depth event analysis/reports and scores from past years, examples of the lovely photo-based certificates and plaques... easily accessible with a few clicks.

The most important thing to know is the date and time of the 2015 event: February 7, local time, 8am to 8pm (UTC 1600z Feb 7 to 0400z Feb 8).

Top scores in every class receive a one-of-a-kind certificate showcasing beautiful BC. Since I'm the one taking the pictures for the certificates and plaques, they are always unique... and collectible!

Examples of the 2014 certificate and plaque photos have been posted to http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_awards.html

As you know, of course, the ultimate goal of BCQP is to get BC stations on the air. But that's the organizer's objective. For participants, the goals are as varied as the people who get on the air: an opportunity to hone operating skills, try out a new mode, pass on knowledge to others, enjoy the camaraderie of a team effort, support a home-grown contest, beat last year's score, capture a unique, photo-based certificate or maybe a plaque, test out equipment and/or software, or simply, meet up with some good people.

I am here to help. If anyone has questions, I'm just an email away.

~ Rebecca VA7BEC

Contest Coordinator for BCQP, Orca DXCC

For Sale by John VE7AXU (604) 590-2260

1. Palstar AT1500CV roller bearing inductor antenna tuner rated for 2000 watts also handles long line (\$200)
2. Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V Field transceiver 160m-10m (\$600)
3. US Interface Navigator digital interface (\$100)
4. Heil GM-5 microphone (\$75)
5. Heil boom arm (\$35)
6. Heil Foot switch (\$20)
7. Butternut HF9V 9-band vertical antenna (complete working) (\$100)
8. Butternut HF6V 6-band vertical antenna (complete for parts or for rebuild) (\$50)
9. Straight CW key with weighted base (\$5)
10. G5RV antenna never used (\$25)



British Columbia QSO Party 2015

1600z February 7 to 0400z February 8

Objectives:

Stations outside British Columbia, make as many contacts as you can with VE7/VA7 stations.

British Columbia stations, make as many contacts as you can with other stations in the province as well as the rest of Canada, into the United States and beyond.

- ✓ Collectible, original photo certificates and BC-themed keepsakes for top scores in all classes, BC and outside BC. New photo every year!
- ✓ Plaques awarded in **EIGHT (8)** sponsored categories: Top YL, Top BC, Top US, Top Canada outside BC, Top DX, Top Rookie, Top Mixed Mode, and Most Federal Districts Contacted
- ✓ BCQP is fully supported by N1MM contest logging software, CQ/X GPS-enabled software for mobile contesting, and most recently, N3FJP state QSO party logging programs.
- ✓ Follow links at <http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html> for rules, tools, helpful hints, and in-depth event analysis/reports and scores from past years.

Questions?

Email the contest coordinator, Rebecca VA7BEC at va7bec@rac.ca

Join Orca DXCC in BCQP 2015
We'll have **ANOTHER** whale of a good time!

February 2015



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to [SARCcommunicator @ outlook.com](mailto:SARCcommunicator@outlook.com) for inclusion in this column.*

Don't forget about the great links on our ve7sar.net website. Howard has been working on the site and you are encouraged to check it out if you haven't visited lately ve7sar.net/links.htm

If you enjoyed John White's updated presentation on **Space Weather**, here is good news:

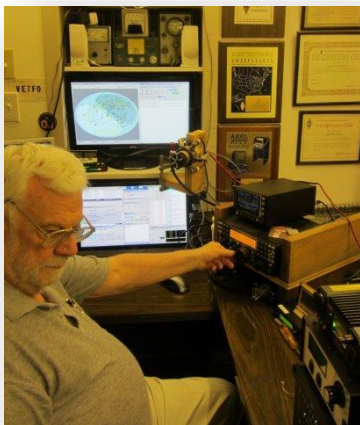
You can enjoy the presentation again in high definition on your computer. Adam Kriz VA7KRZ has put the presentation on YouTube and it is available at <http://youtu.be/J7GbmhJJnWE>

The 2015 Burnaby Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap Meet is on Sunday February 22, 2015 at the Queensborough Community Centre, 920 Ewan Avenue, in New Westminster. Doors open for dealers at 8:30 A.M. and for sellers at 9:00 A.M. The swap meet runs from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Admission is \$6.00 at the door per person.

Tables are priced at \$25.00 each. This includes one seller. An additional seller is \$6.00. All table Rentals must be prepaid. Please contact Lou Beaubien VE7CGE at 604-291-1569 or loucge@telus.net to order tables.

The Marriott Hotel chain is applying to the FCC to allow them to interfere with clients' WiFi signals so that only the WiFi the hotel charges for can be used: <http://qrznow.com/ham-radio-fcc-dont-let-marriott-mess-bands/>

The ARRL is making a free library available to all that will be a very large repository of resources: <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-arrrl-library-goes-live>



We would like to wish Jim VE7FO a very happy 80th birthday and also take this opportunity to say again how much we appreciate his support and willingness to share his expertise with the group.

Without his generous contributions we would not have progressed nearly so far and SARC would be a lesser club.

Ham on Wry

When the Hamfest seller says "It worked last time I used it"
He means "If it still worked, I'd still be using it."



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio



Inventor Victor T. Hoeflich, founder of novelty manufacturing corporation American Merri-Lei of Brooklyn, New York, introduced his "Man-from-Mars Radio Hat" in March 1949.

In the press conference, he used teenagers as models. Sold in department stores across the U.S. and by mail, the hat retailed for \$7.95. Designed after a pith helmet, it could be ordered in eight colors: Lipstick Red, Canary Yellow, Blush Pink, Rose Pink, Tangerine, Flamingo, Chartreuse and Tan. Later seven more color options were added.

Although the hat had a futuristic appearance at the time, this was in fact due to technical limitations. While the transistor had been invented in 1947, it was still experimental and not widely available. And portable transistor radios did not appear until 1954. The hat's radio relied on vacuum tube technology, and Hoeflich made the tubes a prominent feature, as well as the loop aerial. The tuning knob sat between the two tubes.

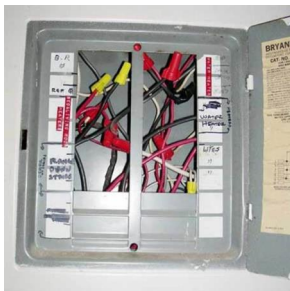
The battery was carried in the user's pocket.

Radio tube technology had advanced during WWII, allowing lower-powered versions.

This meant the hat's radio could be battery-powered at the lower voltages required for a head-borne radio.

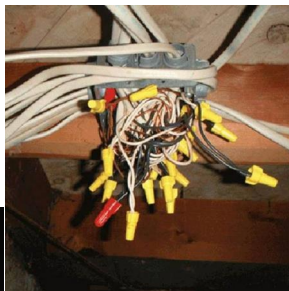
People Who Should Be Prohibited From Carrying Tools

Some rather questionable Do-It-Yourself practices



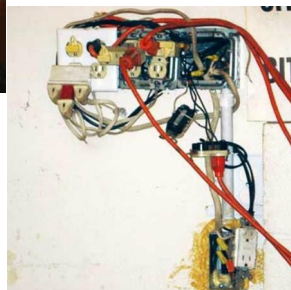
Above: Circuit breakers always tripping? Just eliminate the annoyance.

Right: No outlet? No problem!



Above: I hope he had a circuit diagram!

Right: They never wire enough outlets in... just add a few more.



Above: Damp attic? Just add a fan.

February 2015



History of SEPAR

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



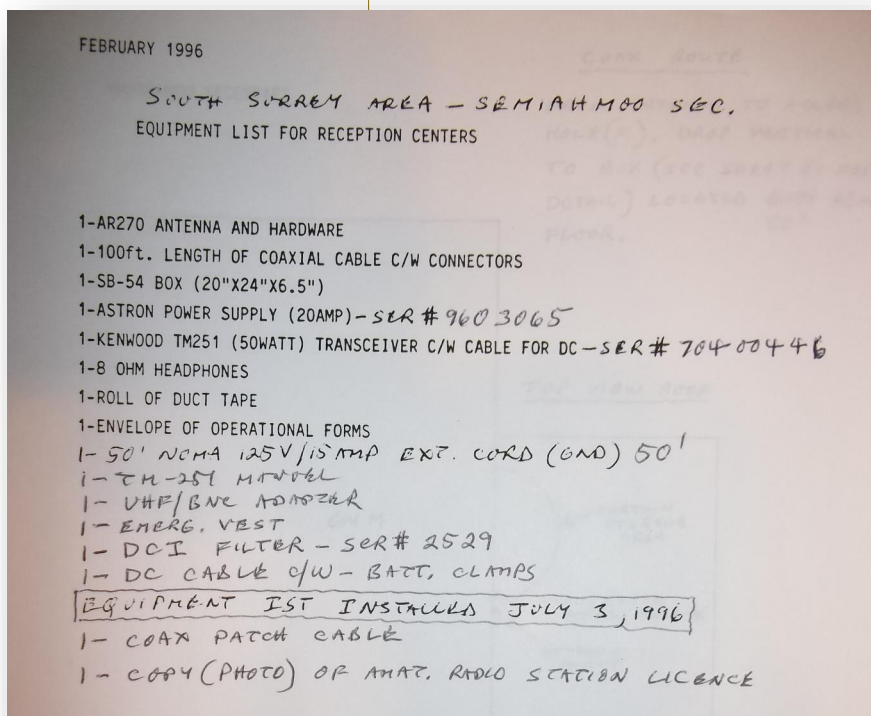
Last month's first installment in the history of SEPAR began in 1994 and covered the years through to 1997; this month will cover the period from 1997 to 2006. The first article covered the setup of the SEPAR volunteer organization, the installation of amateur radios in the schools (receptions centers) and the management of the area teams.

background James was well suited to take SEPAR to the next level. As it turned out, the next level in the progress of SEPAR was not easily achieved.

In 1998 SEP decided to relocate the school radios from the gymnasium area to the administrative offices in a number of the schools. This required removing and re-installing cables and radios into new secure enclosures located in the school offices, all of which was done by volunteers. The only school that did not have the radio station relocated was Queen Elizabeth Sr. Secondary in Whalley. This was due to an earlier removal before school construction. All schools were completed in 1996 or 1997, with Semiahmoo being completed on July 3, 1996. The school that later, received a change was, Whalley Area's Queen Elizabeth Sr. Secondary. The equipment was removed from this school and stored at Hall One storage lockup on September 1997 due to school construction work and the need to protect it from any damage. The plan for this equipment was a future installation at La Matheson Secondary. This may have been in part because large turnover of Emergency Planners within the Surrey Emergency Program (SEP).

James had his work cut out for him but fortunately for him he had the support of Jim Hurrell, VE7HUR, who became James's right hand man. Jim was the SEPAR volunteer who, "got things done". As Jim explains, "James would decide on the projects and I would make it happen", and it worked well.

Despite the many volunteer hours put in by James and Jim, SEPAR did not expand or move forward during the years between 1997 and 2000. Many proposals were made to the city, in which SEPAR would plan to improve existing installations, add new communications equipment and provide for improved training, however none were completed. This may have been due, in part, because during that period of time there were six (yes six) different Emergency Planners. The six planners, during James's term as SEPAR Coordinator were, Jim Bale, Len Garis, Stefan



Some of the notes from the movement of the radios.

In 1997, the first coordinator for SEPAR, Ken Boles, moved from SEPAR to take a position with the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and James Longley, VE7JMS, was appointed by the Surrey Emergency Planner to the position of SEPAR Coordinator. James was very active with Surrey Fire as a volunteer fire fighter and was well suited to carry on the work which began in 1994. James was an amateur radio operator, he had knowledge of the workings of Surrey Fire and he had been involved with PEP, so with this

Gherghinoiv, Jim MacDonald, Natalia Skapski and Tom Lewis.

From the beginning SEPAR had a seat at the quarterly ESS meetings. These meetings, which are still going on, provided an opportunity for all players in SEP to exchange experiences and keep an accurate record of key people within the volunteer organizations. The current schedule for ESS meetings is bi-annual but the benefits of the meetings are still extremely valuable. The role of SEPAR within ESS has always been to provide communications between reception centers and the EOC. In the early days the reception centers had their own radio installations but due to a change of policy within SEP the radio stations are now portable kits.

In the years 1996, 1997 and 1999 SEPAR had a display booth at the Safety Fairs Fire Combat Challenge. The booth consisted of static displays of SEPAR activities with an active demonstration of HF, VHF and UHF using SEPAR radios and antennas from the EOC package. This required a lot of time and hard work on the part of many SEPAR volunteers. It was considered good EOC setup practice, as a large earthquake may have required setup in tents under similar conditions. While some members operated the station, others gave out information on the role of amateur radio communications during an emergency. It seems these Fairs ended around 1999. It may be that Canada Day and CN Family days now

provide the venue for displaying emergency preparedness within Surrey. SEPAR has been a participant in both these events since 2007.

In addition to the Safety Fairs SEPAR put on demonstrations along with Surrey Fire and ESS in malls and the ice arena within Surrey. They set up 2 or 3 radio stations as a display.

SEPAR made presentations to Delta and Langley emergency programs. During these presentations the Delta Emergency Planner Robin Gardiner complimented SEPAR on their work within Surrey.

Jocelyne Colbert, SEP Executive Assistant, was a key person in the Surrey Emergency Program. Jocelyne kept track of many volunteer organizations including SEPAR. To become a SEPAR member you had to register with the City, have an RCMP background check and it was desirable for you to hold a valid amateur radio licence. The entire SEPAR roster had only one or two unlicensed members and was kept up to date by Jocelyne.

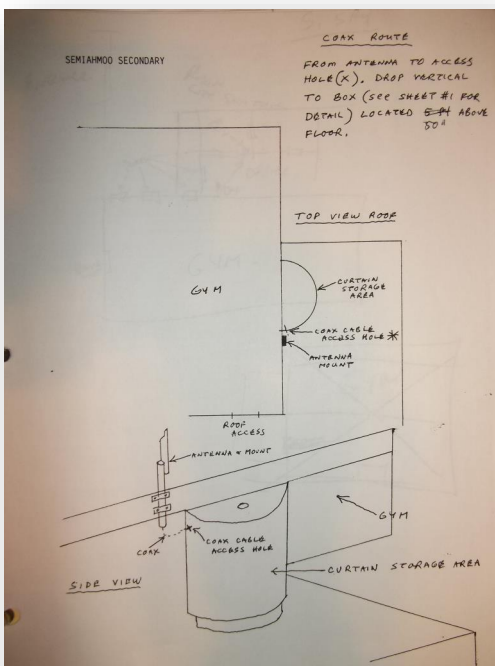
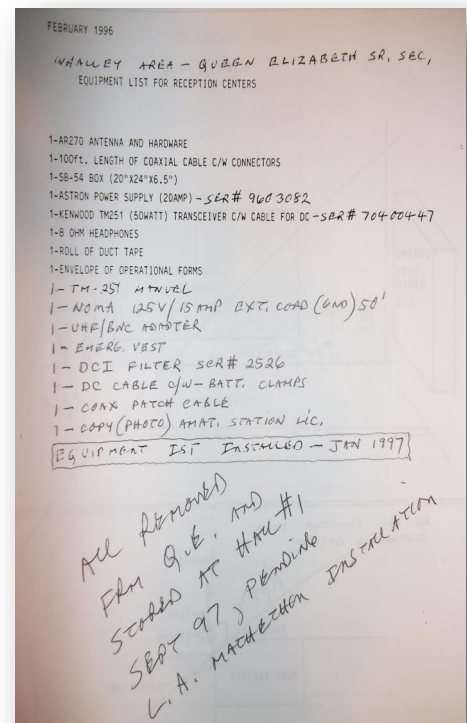
One of Jocelyne's tasks was to organize the annual Volunteer appreciation dinner in the fall of each year. At these dinners awards were handed out for long service, outstanding contributions and leadership roles. Over the years there were many SEPAR volunteers who received awards at these dinners.

During James's term as SEPAR Coordinator he managed the SEPAR volunteers in an exercise named "Thunderbird". This exercise covered the South West Region and Vancouver Island and was a two day event. Ken Boles, the previous SEPAR Coordinator, was then "Provincial Regional Amateur Radio Coordinator" and also had a role in this wide area exercise. During this exercise the office we now know as the PREOC was the Provincial Field Response Center (PFRC) and located in an old building at the Green Timbers site.

The Radio Room at hall number 1 came into being in 1998 and slowly added antennas, radios and operating positions. However, as previously stated, it was difficult to complete plans for improvements so the room largely sat incomplete.



Jocelyne Colbert



If there is anyone who has information on SEPAR from years gone by and would like to share it with all SEPAR members please contact me at ve7io@separs.net and I will get back to you.

February 2015

Next month I will continue on, with the construction of the grab and go kits, the radio room renovation, BCWARN and the many exercises and events that followed.

Things were moving forward with PEP and it was decided in 2005 to move the then PFRC to a new facility renaming it to the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center. It would still be located on the Green Timbers property. At this point James was Coordinator for SEPAR, a volunteer firefighter and station manager for the new PREOC facility as well as his role with Surrey Search and Rescue. Moving into the new PREOC facility, selecting equipment for the new radio station and getting it all up and running was, in itself, a full time job. James decided to step down as SEPAR coordinator in order to spend as much time on the PREOC project as possible. I was approached by James and Jim Hurrell and asked if I would take on the SEPAR Coordinator position and I accepted. My name was then put forward to the Emergency Planner, Tom Lewis, and finding me acceptable appointed me to the position. This was the summer of 2006.

Having accepted the position I needed to quickly get myself up to speed on the SEPAR operation. I needed to make contact with the SEPAR volunteers, meet with the Emergency Planner and find out what Surrey expected of the radio amateur emergency volunteer communicator.

Next month I will continue on, with the construction of the grab and go kits, the radio room renovation, BCWARN and the



many exercises and events that followed. And what happened to the radio that were removed from the schools? You may be interested in knowing that we made very good use of them and they are still available for emergency communications.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separ.net

“Guides on the Air”

We are working with Girl Guides of Canada and Fraser Skies Area (North Delta to Chilliwack) to host a GOTA station to connect Girl Guides to Girl Guides (Sparks, Brownie, Guides and Pathfinders) via amateur radio. This is turning out to be a great event with Coquitlam Amateur Radio Emergency Services, North Shore Emergency Team and possibly others activating for GOTA 2015.

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2015

Location: Port Kells Hall 18918 88 Avenue, Surrey

Time: Set up 0800, Workshop sessions 0900 to 1700 (lunch 1200 to 1300), take down 1700 hrs.

Hourly Workshop Sessions: 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Volunteer opportunities: Introduction speaker, HT op (2) for the simulated ARISS contact, HF operator, VHF/IRLP operator, photographer, Morse code & worksheets, set up and take down, and a team leader.

SEPAR earns an Honorarium for this event. Please support it.

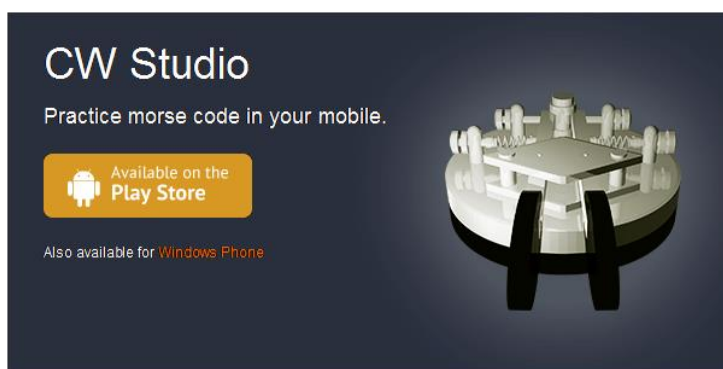
If you are able to volunteer for this very worthwhile community event please contact Marcy by email at louie_family@shaw.ca or Fred at ve7io@separ.net

Richmond Club Basic Course

Consists of 8 classes on Saturday mornings 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, starting on February 7, 2015 and ending with the exam on March 28th. Classes will take place in Richmond, BC in a boardroom environment at Blundell Centre.

The course fee of \$95 will include 7 classes of instructions, course study guide, instructors' notes, course exam, and call sign registration with Industry Canada upon passing the exam.

Please visit our Web site at www.rarclub.ca for the latest updates on the Amateur radio course or contact info@rarclub.ca for information on how to register, as space is limited for the course.



DX—DXpedition Video

K0IR, Ralph Fedor, has posted a very interesting video to YouTube that introduces newcomers to DXing, DXpeditions, and Amateur Radio in general which can be seen at: <http://youtu.be/k4dJcK-WVRw>

For Sale

Yaesu FT840 transceiver for sale almost new condition, great starter radio for the new ham on HF. Simple controls to get on the air and be heard. AM filter installed for HF
AM Price \$450.00
Contact Joe VA7JK at miketangoecho@gmail.com



Tech Tip

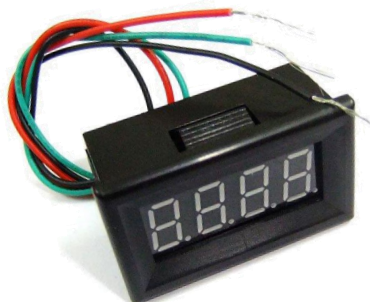
Working a CW contest and hoping to confirm that rare multiplier to boost your score?

When working Search and Pounce CW during the recent CQ WW DX (CW) contest I discovered a simple technique that has made a big difference in my success rate where the coveted DX station has been spotted on the cluster. Frustration can run high when you are unable to crack the pileup in competition with dozens of stations all calling the DX station simultaneously, many of which are running high power with big antennas.

If you click on the spot, your CAT setup will move your transmitter to the exact frequency of the DX station, which makes getting there quick and easy. Only problem is, you are on exactly the same frequency as everyone else, probably within a few Hz. This means that the DX station is hearing your call at exactly the same tone as all the others and yours invariably gets lost in the jumble of signals.

Once the DX station has been located, you are on his frequency, the callsign has been confirmed and you are ready to pounce try this: Move higher (or lower) in frequency by no more than 150 Hz to change the tone heard by the DX station. Your signal will now likely be heard at a different pitch from the rest of the pack. You can't move too far away as many of these guys are using a 250 Hz filter that will chop you off if you go too high (or too low). But I found satisfaction with this technique in working 4Z5TK (Israel), ZS1SJ (Saudi Arabia), 9K2HN (Kuwait) and VU4KV (Andaman Is), in all cases in spite of fierce competition. See if it works for you.

February 2015



Here's The Challenge:
***Can you construct a
 battery voltage monitor
 suitable for use at
 Field Day?***

Announcing a Competition for SARC Members

Our usual method of powering each radio at Field Day is to use a large storage battery connected to a 12 volt charger which is in turn powered by a 120 v AC generator. With this arrangement, when a generator runs out of gas the battery will keep radios and computers operating without interruption for a short time until the generator can be refueled.

However if for some reason the charger can't keep up with the power needs, the voltage provided to the radio may drop without anyone noticing. So, it has been suggested that one of the essential accessories is a means of monitoring battery voltage with some kind of alarm that will be readily heard or seen by operators and the station manager even at night when everyone is sleepy and not paying close attention.

In the past we have used a variety of methods including a simple VOM or voltmeter connected across the battery with alligator clips. Modern meters of this kind generally have a digital display that does not show up in dim light and is therefore likely to be ignored or not carefully monitored.

Another option that has been used in previous years is the VE7XDT custom SWR/power meter on the Grab-and-Go Kits which also shows supply voltage. A wide range of similar devices is available for sale on the Internet and elsewhere.

Some of these are simply variations of a digital voltage meter or a series of LED lamps to indicate battery voltage within a given voltage range.

Others have LEDs that trigger on a low or high voltage condition and yet others will sound an audible alarm when the voltage strays from the desirable range of (say) 12.5 - 13.5 volt. Circuitry may be found in schematic form for the complete u-builders, kit form for the semi-skilled, or complete pre-assembled units that are ready to go out of the box and simply connected up to the battery.

Here is the challenge: Can you construct a battery voltage monitor suitable for use at FD, at least partially from a schematic or kit? Obviously it cannot be an off-the-shelf unit that does not require any construction or assembly. There will be an award for the best design, based on:

1. suitability for FD use;
2. acceptable cost; and
3. innovation.

Complete your project by June 1st and display it at the June AGM. Judging will be done by the FD planning committee and the award made at the September meeting after the device gets a real-life trial at Field Day.

Commercially available lead-acid battery audible voltage monitor

The device referred to above is commercially available on eBay in the configuration shown below. Can you do it better?

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/12V-CAR-sound-and-light-alarm-Orange-LED-digital-voltmeter-battery-tester-/181209366649>



Field Day Task Leaders

	Primary	Secondary
FD Coordinator	Stan NF	
Confirm site and prepare site layout	John XB	
Obtain Toilets	John XB	
Operating strategy	Jim FO	
Competitive HF Radio 1	Jim FO	
Competitive HF Radio 2	Jim FO	
Competitive HF Radio 3 if applicable	John XB	
Testing of 2 radios/1 band concept	Jim FO	
VHF station		
Drop in HF Station	Rob CZV	
GOTA HF station		Al CDC
Satellite station	John TI	John XB
Bonus Points documentation	John XB	
Power - generators, chargers, cables	Al CDC	
Antennas & coax - layout and testing	Jim FO	Stan NF
Logging computers configuration	Jim FO	
Master computer configuration	Jim FO	
Provide logging and master computers		
Networking & Internet	Kapila KGK	Keenan
Operator scheduling		
Food	BYO ?	
Refreshments		
Financial	Scott HA	
Information Table	Al ALZ	
Education & Youth	Al ALZ	
Alternative Power	Al CDC	
Station Managers	Jim FO + TBA	
Publicity & Media	John TI	
Site Safety		
Photography	John TI	Hui, Kapila
Traffic & ARRL bulletin		
Transportation		
Tables & chairs & SARC misc supplies	Anton SSD	
Log and score submission	Jim FO	Brett GM
Setup and takedown	Al ALZ	

Field Day planning has begun. We are looking for your participation so, if you can assist in any of the following areas, please email the 2015 SARC Field Day Coordinator Stan Williams VA7NF at stan@flowbased.com



February 2015



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Stan Williams
VA7NF**

Born and raised in Burnaby, Stan was one of two boys with his brother also living in B.C. Stan was destined to be a “nerd”, (in the positive sense) early in his life. In his teenage years Stan was selected to attend Grade 10, 11 and 12 in an electronics program at Burnaby Central High School where it was taught by an ex-military instructor.

Prior to attending this program, Stan joined the Burnaby Radio Club which was more than just a club for radio hams as it provided other social activities for the teens that attended, such as trampoline, playing pool etc. While involved with the Burnaby Radio Club he attended Field Day with Jim Smith as coordinator. At that time his call sign was VE7BIS. Also during this time Stan took an interest in photography at the school, where he ran the dark room. He rounded his talents off by participating in the swim club and playing baseball.

After graduating from high school Stan attended BCIT where he studied electronics and was president of the BCIT Radio Club. Eighteen months later he joined IBM doing computer repairs and then went on to mainframe software. To this day he maintains an interest in software development. He continued to work for IBM for 24 years and freelance for a further 20 years. Now he is employed by Hewlett Packard who hired him at the ripe “old” age of 68.

In December 1960 Stan obtained his Amateur radio license, one day after his 15th birthday. On his 16th birthday he obtained his Advanced Amateur Radio license. Even at that young age he enjoyed contesting DX with a “home brew” crystal control 6L6 transmitter. He also did NTS traffic with the Evergreen State Net, another highly social group. In addition, he was a member of the RN7 (Regional Net 7) and PAN (Pacific Area Net). These were nets using CW. CW was, and is, a passion of Stan’s. One of the highlights of his life for Stan was, that once again still as a teenager, during the Alaskan

earthquake he acted with Evergreen State Net working the emergency traffic.

By the time he was 20 years of age Stan took some time out of ham radio to pursue a lady by the name of Mary whom he married in 1967. They had 2 children: Keith who presently lives with Stan and Stacey who also lives in Surrey. Stan has 6 grandchildren.

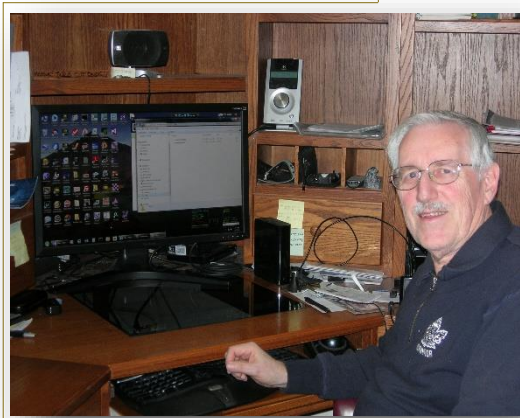
In 1985 Stan moved to Toronto with IBM and in 1987 he remarried. He has lived and worked in various parts of the U.S.A., Hong Kong and Germany all while working with IBM. About 3 years ago while he was living in Ontario he re-engaged with ham radio, and his call sign at that time was VE3FLW.

Stan is a member of O.R.C.A. and a director with SEPAR and SARC, which he joined 18 months ago. While a member of the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club, Stan owned a Hallicrafters S40 WW2 vintage receiver modified to become known as [VE7] BIS-40. He had both DX-40 and DX-100 transmitters. Now he has a Flexradio 6700 direct conversion transceiver. His total time being involved with electronics and radio is 55 years.

Today Stan’s current interests are contesting, using CW, and working in emergency services. He has recently agreed to be the 2015 Field Day Coordinator with SARC, a huge commitment, thanks Stan! He is in the process of renovating his home, which he plans to sell to purchase an acreage in the Gulf Islands with a residence, and set up a think tank and Corporate headquarters for his personal company as well as a contest grade multi-multi station.

He plans to “never retire”. He describes himself as a “nerd” with a good sense of humour and as a person who is super analytical, a problem solver, and as a person who does not pre-judge others. He admits to being “supremely stubborn unless presented with a more convincing argument”. Stan provides lots of expertise to SARC and SEPAR and his volunteer time. Many thanks Stan for all your contributions.

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR



February Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	4	5	6 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	7 Contest: BC QSO Party
8	9	10 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	11 SARC General Meeting	12	13 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	14 Contest: CQ WW WPX (RTTY) 
15 Contest: CQ WW WPX (RTTY)	16	17 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	18	19	20 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	21 Contest: ARRL Int'l DX (CW) SEPAR GOTA
22 Contest: ARRL Int'l DX (CW) Burnaby ARC Swap Meet	23	24 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	25 SARC Exec Meeting	26	27 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	28 Contest: NA QSO Party (RTTY)

For details on all SARC events, go to
ve7sar.net

For details on all SEPARS events, go to
separ.shutterfly.com/calendar

February 2015

**QRT**

John Brodie VA7XB

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARYRob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)**TREASURER**

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORSJohn Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor &
Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

SARC Photos
Web Albums

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

What Part Will You Play at Field Day?

This is the time of year when we start thinking about our most important event of the year: Field Day (FD). As usual it will be held the fourth weekend of June, which this year is June 27-28. Two years ago, we operated Class 3A (portable power, 3 HF radios) and came first in our class. Last year we elected to drop one HF station - and therefore went 2A - to give more opportunities for the GOTA station to see some action. As a result we encountered stiff competition from an eastern Canadian club that surpassed our effort and caused us to be bumped to second place. It remains to be seen which category we will select for 2015 but, nevertheless, our objective will always be to "win". This and many other decisions have yet to be made regarding our strategic and tactical approaches to achieve victory. Each year, we have learned important lessons to improve our effort, make it more fun and reduce the stress. We will build on these lessons to good advantage once again after reconsideration of our past performance and approach.

Stan Williams VA7NF has graciously stepped up to take on the demanding role of FD Coordinator. Stan's job will be to manage the efforts of many individuals in SARC and SEPAR working towards a common goal. Many of the key subordinate positions have also been filled by willing and capable volunteers, as shown in the attached table. However, we are asking that members not already committed to a leadership task consider how they can help.

At this time, we are primarily looking for persons who are willing to take on the primary responsibility for the identified task. As stated at our January meeting, a task leader is one who may expect to "lose sleep" knowing that he/she has the total responsibility for ensuring the details get thought out, the necessary resources are found and tested beforehand, and that execution of the task will be successful. If you are willing to assist but not take on the leadership role, then we will ask for your help at a later date.

A caveat....there will be stiff competition for the operating positions; unless you are an "ace" contester and demonstrably don't need the practice (we have very few aces in our ranks), priority for operating will be given to those members who have participated in contests throughout the year and shown that they can Run for long periods of time, work efficiently through the pileups and maintain a high rate of contacts. Please don't assume that you can skip all the practice sessions, show up for Field Day and deny an operating position to a member who has worked hard to improve his proficiency and thereby earned the privilege.

Our Field Day Task List is on [page 19](#).

~ John VA7XB

The February Meeting

The February 11th General Meeting will feature a presentation by James Longley VE7JMS. James is the station manager for the Southwest Regional PREOC, the location where we have our meetings.

James will provide a station tour and will demonstrate the station's capabilities if activated. The station handles not only Amateur Radio traffic but is also tied into a network of other communications services.

This promises to be an insightful evening, worthwhile for all Surrey Club members, given they may be called upon to assist at this station in the event of an emergency.



Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdbby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdbby
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdbby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
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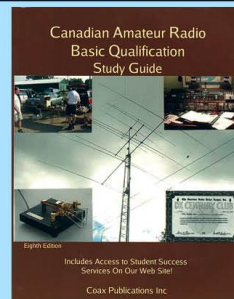
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